

~~SECRET~~

SUB

OUTGOING

IMMEDIATE

FRP:

STAFF

OUTGOING

MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

OUTGOING MESSAGE

PAGE 001
TOT: 150615Z JAN 85

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN NO CONTRACT
BRIEF
TO: IMMEDIATE ROUTINE MEA BRIEF

(NOFORN IN SLANTS)

WNINTEL.

MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF FOR 15 JANUARY 1985.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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2. INDIA-SRI LANKA: RELATIONS AT NEW LOW

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//INDIA AND SRI LANKA ARE TRADING ACCUSATIONS FOLLOWING THE INDIANS' SEIZURE ON FRIDAY OF A SRI LANKAN SHIP, APPARENTLY IN INDIAN WATERS. NEW DELHI CLAIMS THE VESSEL ATTACKED MORE THAN 20 INDIAN FISHING BOATS AND STOLE THEIR NETS AND CATCH. COLOMBO HAS PROTESTED THAT THE INDIAN COAST GUARD ATTACKED WITHOUT PROVOCATION AND FORCED THE SRI LANKAN VESSEL TO INDIA.//

b3 //PRIME MINISTER GANDHI WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA'S NEIGHBORS, BUT HE IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM TAMIL NADU FISHERMEN TO PROTECT THEM FROM SRI LANKAN HARASSMENT. COLOMBO, IN AN EFFORT TO INTERCEPT TAMIL INSURGENTS MOVING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HAS ORDERED ITS SMALL PATROL VESSELS TO TRY TO KEEP BOATS OUT OF ALL BUT A NARROW ZONE OF THE PALK STRAIT. THE CONTROVERSY OVER FRIDAY'S SEIZURE PROBABLY WILL RULE OUT A PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN INDIAN AND SRI LANKAN LEADERS.//

3. IN BRIEFS

MIDDLE EAST

--ISLAMIC JIHAD THREATENED YESTERDAY TO TRY FIVE AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON AS SPIES . . . IF TRUE, INDICATES RADICAL SHIAS INCREASING FOCUS ON FORCING ALL AMERICANS OUT OF LEBANON.

INTERNATIONAL

NORWEGIAN STATE OIL COMPANY HAS ABANDONED OFFICIAL PRICES . . . INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF SIMILAR ACTION BY UK BEFORE COMING OPEC MEETING . . . COULD PROVOKE ANOTHER CUT BY NIGERIA AND SET OFF DROP IN OPEC PRICES.

AFRICA

--//DROUGHT COULD REDUCE SOMALIA'S CORN CROP BY 85 PERCENT, FOOD SHORTAGES LIKELY, UNLESS FOOD AID ARRIVES IN NEXT FEW MONTHS . . . MOGADISHU LACKS FOREIGN

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EXCHANGE TO BUY FOOD TO COVER LOSSES.//

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